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May 2, 1997

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Box Patent Application

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re:

U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application

Appl. No. To be assigned; Filed: May 2, 1997

For:

Preparation of Extended Shelf-Life Biodegradable, Biocompatible

Microparticles Containing a Biologically Active Agent

Inventors:

Michael E. Rickey et al.

Our Ref:

1611.0630002/AGR

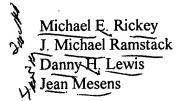
Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO):

1. U.S. Utility Patent Application entitled:

Preparation of Extended Shelf-Life Biodegradable, Biocompatible Microparticles Containing a Biologically Active Agent

and naming as inventors:



65431 U.S. PT



Assistant Commissioner for Patents May 2, 1997 Page 2

the application consisting of:

- a. A specification containing:
 - (i) 33 pages of description prior to the claims;
 - (ii) 10 pages of claims (52 claims);
 - (iii) a one (1) page abstract;
- b. 4 sheets of drawings: (Figures 1-4); and
- 2. Two (2) return postcards.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

This patent application is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)(1) without declaration and without filing fee. This patent application claims priority to provisional application number 60/041,551, filed May 7, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Andrea G. Reister

Attorney for Applicants

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Enclosures

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